

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Karen W. Morgan  
Rep. Laura Black  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart  
Rep. Curtis Oda  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Rep. Kraig Powell  
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion

Rep. Christine F. Watkins  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley  
Rep. Carl Wimmer

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Wayne A. Harper  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. Rep. Hughes and Rep. Newbold were excused from attending the meeting.

**MOTION:** Rep. Holdaway moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Wimmer was absent for the vote.

Hazing study - Sen. Stephenson noted that the committee chairs have issued a press release requesting that any incidents of hazing be reported to them.

New Century and Regents' Scholarships - Mr. Larson briefly discussed a handout, "New Century & Regents' Scholarships Update," which addresses the funding shortfall for the scholarships.

Dr. William A. Sederburg, Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, explained the difficulty in estimating the number of students who will apply for a New Century scholarship. He reported that notices are going out to inform students that they will receive the full scholarship amount this year.

Mr. Dave Feitz, Executive Director, Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, responded to questions regarding estimating the number of potential applicants for the New Century Scholarship.

Mr. David Buhler, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, discussed a handout, "New Century Scholarship: Recent Time-Line," that outlines the actions taken by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education in administering the funding shortfall for the New Century Scholarships.

Committee members raised issues regarding the New Century Scholarship program for future consideration by the Legislature.

## **2. Sunset Review of the Public Education Job Enhancement Program**

Dr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Mr. John Sutherland, Chairman, Job Enhancement Committee, presented the sunset review of the Public Education Job Enhancement Committee and distributed handouts, "Review of the Public Education Job Enhancement Program, Program Summary," and "Program Review of Public Education Job Enhancement Program."

**MOTION:** Rep. Lockhart moved to reauthorize the Public Education Job Enhancement Program for ten years. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dayton, Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Oda, and Rep. Powell were absent for the vote.

## **3. Workforce Preparation**

Mr. Richard Nelson, President, Utah Technology Council (UTC), and Mr. Richard White, President, Utah College of Applied Technology, distributed a packet of information, "Utah Technology Council - Provides a Brighter Future for Your Business," and made a presentation on the challenges of preparing students for the current workforce. Mr. Nelson noted that: 1) most jobs require education or training beyond high school; and 2) students need better guidance on the skills and training they need to enter the workforce. He proposed that members of industry mentor students and suggested that the Student Education Occupation Plan process may need to be modified.

Mr. Nelson asked for those in attendance who are involved with UTC to stand and introduce themselves. They were as follows:

Mr. Jeff Vanck, Director of Human Resources Masters Program at University of Utah  
Mr. Aaron Reed, Vice President, Neumont University  
Mr. Ted McAleer, Utah Science and Technology Research  
Ms. Peggy Wallace, Utah Technology Council  
Mr. Steve Maas, Department of Workforce Services

Dr. Shumway noted that Utah's comprehensive guidance counseling system has received recognition nationwide.

Sen. Stephenson turned the chair over to Rep. Lockhart.

## **4. Consider Proposed Legislation, "School Property Tax Equalization Amendments"**

Sen. Stephenson distributed and introduced 2010 General Session draft legislation, "School Property Tax Equalization Amendments." He explained that the bill requires a school district receiving property tax revenue from a capital outlay levy equalization program to adopt schedules to increase the enrollment capacity of certain school buildings. He asked staff to review the draft legislation.

Ms. Steffen gave an overview of the 2010 General Session draft legislation, "School Property Tax Equalization Amendments."

Mr. Royce Van Tassell, Vice President, Utah Taxpayers Association, distributed and reviewed two charts, "Assessed value per student, by district," and "Income taxes owed per enrolled student, by school district."

Mr. Robert Wall, City Attorney, South Jordan, expressed a sentiment of the South Jordan City Council that they appreciate the proposed legislation in that Sen. Stephenson is attempting to force school districts and the state school board to rethink the way education is provided in the state.

Sen. Stephenson noted that he will bring draft legislation back to the Committee for further study.

**5. Utah Orderly School Termination Procedures Act**

This agenda item was not discussed.

**6. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair Lockhart adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.